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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 9, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 3 totaled an estimated 18.0 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 316 billion ton-miles, 6.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 3 totaled 457,944 cars, 7.2 percent below 1979, but 0.7 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 12.3 percent in the East, 2.8 percent in the South, and 5.8 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 17 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 115,208, 5.5 percent higher than 1979. The largest decline was in motor vehicles and equipment, down 10,398 cars, or 37.9 percent. Fourteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 26 totaled 32,286 cars, down 19.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,281 trailers and/or containers, 17.0 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 17 weeks of the year was 567,420 cars, 5.2 percent lower than last year, and 1,030,323 trailers and/or containers, down 3.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/3/80.

| | Loadings in Week ended May 3, 1980 | Change from Corresponding Week 1979 | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | Cars | Percent | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 23,896 | D 386 | 1.6 | D 1,280 | 5.1 |
| Other farm products | 4,597 | I 901 | 24.4 | I 664 | 16.9 |
| Metallic ores | 35,410 | I 341 | 1.0 | I 1,793 | 5.3 |
| Coal | 115,208 | I 5,970 | 5.5 | D 2,219 | 1.9 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 15,709 | D 2,407 | 13.3 | I 905 | 6.1 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 16,732 | I 1,682 | 11.2 | I 1,111 | 7.1 |
| Grain mill products | 16,469 | D 1,097 | 6.2 | I 212 | 1.3 |
| Food and kindred products | 17,547 | D 542 | 3.0 | I 322 | 1.9 |
| Primary forest products | 19,884 | D 1,597 | 7.4 | I 884 | 4.7 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,642 | D 4,129 | 32.3 | I 398 | 4.8 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 21,898 | D 332 | 1.5 | I 1,119 | 5.4 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 30,152 | D 1,363 | 4.3 | I 367 | 1.2 |
| Petroleum products | 5,577 | D 946 | 14.5 | D 126 | 2.2 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 15,716 | D 4,192 | 21.1 | D 268 | 1.7 |
| Coke | 5,499 | D 1,884 | 25.5 | D 772 | 12.3 |
| Metals and products | 18,629 | D 5,223 | 21.9 | I 207 | 1.1 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 17,071 | D 10,398 | 37.9 | D 1,133 | 6.2 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 14,528 | D 406 | 2.7 | I 466 | 3.3 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 11,279 | D 2,498 | 18.1 | I 112 | 1.0 |
| All other carloads | 43,302 | D 6,903 | 13.7 | I 521 | 1.2 |
| LCL traffic | 199 | D 249 | 55.6 | D 12 | 5.7 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 457,944 | D 35,658 | 7.2 | I 3,271 | 0.7 |
| Corresponding week of 1979 | 493,602 | | | | |

| | 1980 | 1979 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (18 weeks) | 7,966,911 | 7,926,773 | I 0.5 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 17 weeks cumulative | 297.9 | 278.5 | I 7.0 |
| Week ended May 3 | 18.0 | 18.3 | D 1.3 |
| 18 weeks cumulative | 315.9 | 296.7 | I 6.5 |

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